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A UNIQUE CASE OF SYPHILITIC INFECTION.

By DR. HENRI MALHERBE, Nantes, France.

THE interest of the case which we are about to relate will be found on the one hand in the manner in which the disease seems to have been transmitted and on the other hand in the age of the syphilis of the contaminating subject.

In December, 1913, there presented herself at our office a little old woman, decrepit and showing by her entire appearance that she was in the seventies. She confessed that she was seventy years old. Without any preamble she asks and insists that we give her a thorough general examination, paying special attention to the genital organs. For, says she, her lover [sic] accuses her of having recently infected him with syphilis.

Somewhat surprised on account of the appearance of our patient, which denotes an epoch of life usually exempt from such incidents, we proceed to the systematic examination of this woman. The mucous membrane of the mouth in its entire extent appears healthy, there is not the slightest erosion on the lips, cheeks, gums, nothing on the pillars, tonsils or uvula, no leucoplakia. The pharynx is normal. The only thing noticeable is a complete absence of teeth and a marked senile absorption of both jaws. An inspection of the skin from the head to the feet shows nothing except the ordinary imperfections common to old people, signs of the destruction of time. A most careful examination of the external genitals shows absolutely nothing. No present lesions, no traces of old lesions. Only marked senile atrophy here and elsewhere. The atresia of the vulva is particularly marked, and under the circumstances this is of great importance. The condition of the internal genitals is equally satisfactory. No discharge, not the slightest vaginitis. In the groins, some enlarged glands without significance. The various reflexes are normal. An examination of the viscera shows nothing in particular. The heart murmurs are

accentuated, the pulse tense. There is quite a high degree of arteriosclerosis. In short, nothing which would permit one to suspect syphilis in this woman, and not the slighest actual lesion.

There remained an examination of the blood. But the patient refused energetically to have a Wassermann made.

We thus could certify to the present healthy condition of this woman, reserving our judgment, well understood, as to the past and the future, something that is always prudent to do in the case of syphilis. Indeed an examination of the antecedents of this woman discloses that when she was twenty years old, that is fifty years ago, she had syphilis. The syphilis was certainly benign, she treated herself for a few months and then she never bothered with it, not having at any time in her life the slightest reminder of her trouble.

This lady tells us further that her friend, a man who is nearly sixty-five years old, has known her for the last forty-five years. And that during the last thirty years he has had regularly sexual relations with her.

A few days later the second act of this intimate little drama presented itself to our eyes. During the middle of January, 1914, Mr. X applied to us for a diagnosis of a very confluent eruption which had existed for four to five weeks. Mr. X is sixty-four years old, tall and straight, apparently vigorous and well preserved. He is very arthritic, the liver is somewhat enlarged and out of order and he has made several trips to Vichy on account of it.

On examination we find an abundant eruption of roseolar spots over the entire body. The roseola is extremely confluent on the scalp, which is bald, and on the face, particularly on the forehead, where it becomes papular. It is equally abundant on the flanks, the thighs, the legs, arms and forearms, reaching to the back of the hands. Towards the extremities, the hands and the feet, the eruptive lesions are smaller, more isolated and of a less vivid color. In the mouth there is an ulcerous patch on the left border of the tongue, the teeth are bad and on both tonsils there are large patches. On the glans on the level of the meatus there is a half circle of dry papules. Finally, on the prepuce, which is hard, sclerosed, slightly phimotic and which can be drawn back with difficulty, there are numerous fissures and rhagades and on the back of the prepuce there is a little red indurated plaque which is nothing but a syphilitic chancre on the road to cicatrization. Bunches of swollen glands very distinct in both groins, also a cervical adenitis. It must be noted that Mr. X has had preputial fis-

sures and rhagades for years. Any friction of that region causes excoriations. He is not diabetic. Unquestionably we have to deal here with a case of syphilis of the second period in full blast.

Now this patient has for many years had no sexual relations except with his old mistress, whose story we told above, and whom we have found free from any lesions. How can we explain this infection? Shall we admit that a mucous patch, an ephemeral vulvar erosion (such lesions in the most remote periods of syphilis have been described; we have personally seen a most characteristic vulvar mucous patch twenty years after the chancre) has been the cause of a contamination at the moment of the coitus, the lesions having healed without a trace at the time of our examination? This is possible. But wouldn't it be more correct to think of a friable condition of the preputial tissues of our patient and of the vulvar atresia of his partner? This is the more plausible, because Mr. X contends that the relations were difficult and that during one of the last acts of coitus there was profuse bleeding.

One can see under the circumstances of what great interest a Wassermann test of the woman's blood would have been. It seems logical to admit the direct transmission of the syphilis by the blood of the vulvar wound to the preputial excoriation.

Reflections.

This case, related perhaps with too great details, justified however by its interest, gives rise to a number of reflections.

An important fact: It proves that a syphilitic without any apparent lesions can be contagious. Further, it shows how futile the idea is generally entertained as to the duration of the period of the contagion of the syphilis. After three or four years we are told that the syphilitic is no longer contagious. A mistake. Though practically this assertion is often correct, though in reality a tertiary syphilitic has few lesions and these lesions are only slightly contagious, there are exceptions. Late mucous patches are not rare. One has seen them ten, twenty, forty years after the chancre. The tertiary lesions themselves are in a certain measure contagious, one has often discovered therein the spirocheta.

Finally, the body fluids, the semen, the milk, the blood, may be virulent. As far as the last is concerned, inoculation experiments on monkeys and rabits have given sufficient proof. In our observation, if our manner of seeing things is correct, it can be considered as brilliant a proof as a successful laboratory experiment.

Our case also forces us to think, sad as the thought may be,

that a syphilitic remains dangerous all his life, dangerous even during the latest phases of the disease. Our observation further greatly diminishes the value of the advice given by wise mentors to young men, who are anxious to enter the sexual combats, to prefer mature prostitutes to young debutantes. Our case further shows that a very benign syphilis may give rise to a much more virulent syphilis in another person, the soil being more important than the seed, and that Fournier's statement that "each person makes his syphilis according to his image" is not devoid of foundation.

For The American Journal of Urology and Sexology.

MISALLIANCES AND UNHAPPY MARRIAGES: AN IMPORTANT BUT NEVER REFERRED TO CAUSE.

By William J. Robinson, M.D.

THE very quiet, very gentle, very obedient and very well brought up son of a highly esteemed leader of ethical culture and professor of ethics, himself a college student in his senior year, one night failed to come home; he did not show up the following day, nor the following, nor for several following days. To avoid publicity the parents refrained from notifying the police; but they engaged a private detective, who after a week's search informed them that he had traced their son with a young woman to a hotel, where they had registered as man and wife. The father wanted to rush at once to the hotel, but the mother thought that Bertrand would mind it less if she went to see him. But when she came to the hotel she was informed that the young couple for whom she inquired had left the previous night.

For two weeks they heard nothing, and then they received a letter in which Bertrand informed them that he was married to the sweetest girl in the world; he got acqainted with her some three months ago, and as he felt that she was essential to his happiness, to his very life, that he simply could not live without her, and as he feared that the parents, the father particularly, would interpose objections and attempt to put obstacles in their way, he decided to burn his bridges behind him and get married. They have been married nearly three weeks and he felt very happy. If the parents were willing to welcome him and his wife to their home, he would be glad to return, and to finish his studies. If not, he would be looking around for some work to support himself and his wife, as the little money he had, from his several years' savings,

was coming to an end. As to who his wife was, who her parents were, on these points he vouchsafed no information.

The father was opposed to receiving the couple under his roof, but the mother, made of less stern ethical stuff, prevailed upon him to forgive his son his misstep, "if a misstep it is."—"For after all how can one know? Maybe she will make him a fine wife. He is young; but some boys make out much better by marrying young."

But when the young wife came, the mother *knew*. She received a stab in the heart when she saw her; she knew that her boy was doomed to misery for many years to come; perhaps forever. She was pretty, there was no doubt about that. But she was common, she was ignorant, she was vulgar—there was no doubt about that, either. And strange to say, Bertrand did not seem very happy; his love seemed in the brief period between his letter and his arrival to have suffered some sort of shock. One could plainly see that something weighed upon his mind, depressed him, crushed him.

The mother begged him to give her his confidence; he would be as dear to her as ever he was, and if there was help for him she would do everything in the world to help him.

There wasn't much to tell. He had met her—Sadie was her name—in the "College Barber Shop," where she was employed as a manicurist. After she had manicured his hands two or three times he felt he could not live without her. He began to frequent the shop daily, having his hands manicured more frequently than is the custom, or than his finances permitted him, and when his attentions began to cause cynical smiles on the face of the boss and the employes, he asked her to meet him in the evening, to which she after some hesitation agreed. A flame was burning within him, a consuming flame which he felt nothing could quench or allay except a close sex intimacy with her. He did not want to look too closely into her antecedents or her character, for he feared to learn anything unfavorable about her. He did not want to know the truth, if the truth was apt to keep him away from her. Whether or not she would have permitted a close intimacy, without a marriage certificate, he could not say, but of course he would never have thought of subjecting any pure girl to such an insult; his bringing up, his fine ethical conceptions would not permit such a step.

And as with each day, nay, each hour, life without her became more and more impossible, preventing him from doing anything

in the daytime, and making each night an interminable torture, he decided to take the step which he felt was the only step for him to take. Any attempt at dissuasion would have proved useless, or would have accelerated his step. Within a week after their marriage, tiny gossamer clouds of doubt as to the wisdom of his step began to arise in his mind, but the flame of sex passion quickly consumed them. But with each day that passed the clouds became thicker and more resistant, and the flame less consuming. And when she found out that he was not the rich and independent son she imagined him to be, she was quite ugly about it. He thought, she married him, as he married her, for love. He didn't say it, but she divined his thought, and her answer was that love was all right, but nowadays girls didn't marry for love alone; they wanted pretty clothes and lots of them, and every decent man had at least one automobile. And she certainly did not intend to stay with him in his parents' house. She was entitled to an apartment of her own. She felt bored in his house, and she did not care for his father and mother. They gave her the shivers.

She told him frankly that she did not intend to stay in the house from morning till night, that she was a young girl and she needed some amusement. If he was too busy or too fastidious (too stuck-up, she said) to go with her to the movies or to vaudeville, she would have to go alone or with some of her old friends.

Her absences became gradually more frequent and more prolonged, and not very rarely it was one or two o'clock in the morning when she came home. Rumors began to float about her being seen in questionable cabarets with some college students, undoubtedly friends of hers from her manicure days. Bertrand suffered, but suffered in silence. One day he received an anonymous letter, in which the writer who signed himself Friend, told him that he was a boob for having married Sadie Smith, and that he was a dooble boob for continuing to live with her; that there were very few students who had not been intimate with her for years, that the looseness of her morals was known to everybody, and that she has resumed relations with several of her former friends. The letter was a severe slap in his face, but the postscript added insult to injury, or rather injury to insult. In the postscript, he was warned to take good care of himself, as it would not be at all surprising if he became infected with some loathsome disease.

By this time Bertrand had deep contempt for "the finest girl in the world," but she still held some sway over him with her

sex appeal. For she looked even prettier than before. But when he read the letter, he decided at once to discontinue all relations with her, for he had a terrible fear of venereal disease. His moral bringing up included a wholesome, or rather unwholesome because greatly exaggerated, fear of the venereal scourge. Alas, it was too late. Two days later the symptoms of a well known disease made their appearance. He disclosed all his misery to his mother. He would have forgiven his wife everything, but he could not forgive her careless and brutal wantonness in infecting him, and unable to restrain his anger he took her by the shoulders and put her out of the house. He fears a public scandal and he is supporting her with his modest means, but as soon as he is through with college he is going to sue for divorce. Bertrand, though a young man, is a broken old man. And the pity, mixed with some sneering derision, with which some students look at him, is almost more than he can bear.

Now what made Bertrand transform a common, vulgar, ignorant and immoral creature into the sweetest, finest girl in the world, into an angel from heaven? We will answer the question later, after we have referred briefly to several other cases which came to our notice.

Here is A. B., a shy youth of twenty-two, from a good family, who went off and married a coarse and ignorant woman fifteen years his senior. In this case there was even no infatuation; he was not altogether blind to her defects, but there was an irresistible physical desire. They live the life of a cat and dog, but she will not free him, and as there are two children as a result of the union, he cannot break away from her. And a life full of promise has been irretrievably ruined.

Professor B. C., a famous stylist and writer, author of many books, a man of international reputation, becomes entangled with his stenographer, and to avoid a scandal and a suit for breach of promise, is obliged to marry her. Now there is nothing wrong with a stenographer per se; some people have married stenographers and have lived happily ever after. But this one showed herself a very devil as soon as the marriage ceremony was performed. He was of a shy retiring disposition, devoted to his books and writings, while she wanted to be out all the time and "enjoy" herself. She spent extravagantly on clothes, and made bills which were beyond his means to meet. He labored harder and harder, longer and longer hours, began to do hack work and send out pot-boilers, but

he could not keep up with her cynical and heartless extravagance. He was being sued, he gave notes which he could not meet, he noticed a decided deterioration in the quality of his work, and rather than go on, he settled all accounts by blowing his brains out.

And C. D. was a jolly fellow, full of life and vim and whims; he could keep a company laughing for hours at a time, full of stories and jokes, and always ready—not only ready but anxious—to render a service to a friend or a stranger. He was universally liked; now he is universally pitied. His wife has made him gradually break with his former friends, hardly anybody visits their house, his mood is that of chronic gloom, and he has forgotten how to laugh. He has lost all ambition, and leads a practically vegetative existence. Maritally, he and his wife have been strangers for several years.

Now, what has made C. D. marry his present wife, whom everybody knew to be a quarrelsome, untruthful shrew, and whom he himself disliked the first time he met her?

To answer this question is to answer the corresponding questions in the cases of A. B., B. C., and Bertrand X. and thousands of similar cases of misalliances and unhappy marriages.

In each case, the life of complete sexual abstinence which the man lived resulted in a pent-up libido, or to use a physico-chemical term, a supersaturation of the system with libidinogen, which muddled his brain and blurred his vision, made him idealize cunning into cleverness, vulgarity into independence, made him see a romantic Juliette in a prosaic and illiterate cook, and an angel from heaven in a coarse, selfish, immoral stenographer. If doubts ever arose in those people's minds as to the wisdom of their step, they were quickly beaten down and consumed by the fire of the libido sexualis. Had those people lived a sexually normal life, they would not have made those foolish and in many instances fatal steps.

We are not suggesting any remedies for misalliances of this character. It is possible that the universal indulgence in illicit relations before marriage would result in greater evils than is caused by abstinence. We are merely stating facts as we know them, and there is no question that complete sexual abstinence, with its pent-up libido and lack of emotional outlet of any sort, is responsible for many, very many misalliances and unhappy marriages and ruined careers and suicides. As soon as the accumulated libido has been discharged, as soon as the cobwebs from their brain have been cleared and the scales from their eyes removed,

they perceive what a terrible blunder they have made, but it is then, under our stupid divorce laws, difficult or impossible to correct the blunder.

What we have said here about men applies with equal force to women. Here is a refined and cultured girl who ran away and got married to a chauffeur. Here a fine well-to-do college graduate marries a worthless ignorant cad, whom she begins to despise and with whom she refuses to live after they have been married a week. There a girl of twenty-four marries a man of fifty, and not for the sake of a good home either—which is deplorable but comprehensible—who tyrannizes over her in a most shameful manner. And here a girl of twenty-five runs away with her music teacher, who is forty-five years old, and who has a wife and three children; she expects him to get a divorce and to marry him, and it is only the poltroonery of the man after a life together for three days that reveals him to her in his true colors and makes her run back home.

There are thousands of such tragic examples. And in each case the cause is pent-up libido and lack of emotional outlet. The first cause is physical, which under our present moral and social code, cannot in the case of women be helped. The second is psychic, which ought to be helped, and which in the case of women is helped even more readily than in the case of men. Women or rather girls can get along without the physical manifestations of sex much more readily than men; but some outlet for their pent-up emotions, some platonic friendships, they must have. If they have not, disaster is sure to follow, in the vast majority of instances.

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FALSE ACCUSATIONS OF RAPE.

By Dr. F. R. Bronson.

Motives.

CONSIDERING the sense of shame which woman ordinarily manifests in all matters pertaining to sex the false accusation of rape would appear to be unusual. Practical experience, however, has shown, that in no field of simulation has greater ingenuity been displayed by hysterical and revengeful women that in accusations of rape. Women have been known to produce artificially injuries upon their sexual parts and neighboring structures the more strongly to fasten the accusation of rape upon some man.

The question of motives which may induce women to take such an unnatural course is a very complicated one. It is not always prostitutes, or women of loose moral characters who show proclivities for staging such accusations. Quite the contrary. Sometimes the false accusers belong to respectable families and enjoy a good reputation; this only aggravates the burden of their accusation.

Revenge is not infrequently the motive. A woman entertains amorous relations with a man and finally yields to his entreaties. He grows cool, or she learns that he is unduly attentive to some other woman. Maddened at the thought that she yielded to him perhaps too readily, unable to view with equanimity his lack of interest for her, the woman decides to make him suffer. She enlists the sympathies of relatives and friends and presently the machinery of law is moved against the man.

The desire to inflict punishment or suffering may fasten itself upon some person entirely free of any guilt. The supposed complainant may claim to have been the victim of an assault, relates circumstantial evidence of her own manufacture, though possibly woven around some slight incident which gives the matter at first some semblance of truth, and shows, in support of her claim, various self-inflicted injuries such as are likely to take place by one repulsing an assault.

The desire to extort money from the accused is even more often than revenge the motive for false accusations. This is sometimes seen in the lower strata of society, but is more characteristically the case among people of the higher classes. The woman may be aided by others in fastening the accusation upon the chosen victim. A woman's own husband may be a party to the plot. Usually there is a concerted action framed up calculated to give the accusation greatest verisimilitude. Cases of this kind may not come into court, the victim agreeing to compensate the complaining parties, in order to avoid the scandal of publicity. Or the plot may fail and the victim may turn tables against his accusers. Occasionally the man may be taken by surprise in such a manner that he actually believes himself caught at wrongdoing, having placed himself in a compromising situation.

A woman may enter complaint against a young man in spite of having yielded to him willingly in order to force him to marry her. Where marriage is out of question the woman may deny having given her consent and claim assault in order to cover her guilt before irate relatives or in the pursuit of some other more or less imaginary advantage.

Young girls may be the complainants in false accusations of assault or rape at the instigation of hysterical parents. A girl

comes home from school or play, crying, having been roughly handled by some young man of the neighborhood, although with no evil intent. Forthwith, the mother, in anger, conceives the notion that the young man had impure designs; she may influence the child to tell a story corroborative of her own suspicions. Under repeated cross questionings and repetitions of the frame work of the story the child's account of what actually took place fits more accurately with the mother's accusation, and thus a case develops requiring the attention of physican and court. In a case of this kind, known to the writer, there was a feud of long standing between the parents of the supposed assailant and the girl's parents. The accusation was all that was required for a bitter and vicious outbreak of hostilities between the two camps.

False accusations are not always prompted by motives which are intelligible to the average person. Sometimes no one but an expert in psychopathology can appreciate fully the reasons that prompt some woman to raise false alarms of assault and rape. We have to deal here with instances of enormous craving for public notice, a desire to attract attention as well as pity, in other words, a manifestation of hysteria. These false accusers may prove to be troublesome so long as they succeed in presenting their case with some semblance of plausibility.

The intention of these accusers is not always fraudulent; they do not seek compensation for their own injuries so much as punishment for their alleged tormentors. They go about their work of prosecution in a spirit that may appear highly commendable; yet their whole case may rest on nothing tangible or serious. Some innocent playfulness, or an unintentional act may be seized upon and the fertile imagination of the hysterical may concoct around it an offence of a most serious order.

One of the most unfortunate features in such cases is the fact that the hysterical person herself becomes firmly convinced that the details of her story are true down to their most minute details, although she may be made to acknowledge her inability to distinguish between fact and fancy when her memory and power of reproduction of events are tested. A hysterical woman, under such circumstances, may even show minute extravasations or ecchymoses upon her limbs and body, as evidence of struggle. Nor are such stigmata always self-inflicted. They may appear automatically. Hysterical stigmata of this order are among the most curious phenomena in psychopathology. Local hyperalgesia, perhaps alternating with areas of anesthesia, is found quite frequently.

The coexistence of hysterical stigmata and undisputable evidence of rape may raise the question whether the hysteria did not

develop in consequence of the assault. In cases where there is no previous history of such a condition the possibility may well be admitted. An assault of such grave character is one of the worst psychic traumata to which a woman's nervous system may be subjected and it is not surprising to find the development of various neurotic symptoms as a consequence.

REPORTS OF CASES

Prof. P. Lorain, of Paris, was once called to the defence of a physician whom a certain married woman accused of assault during a medical examination. The woman's husband, who complained to the authorities about ten days after the alleged assault, made the following statement: "My wife says that on March 1st, Dr. X. made a professional call at our house, during which, at his request, she submitted to a vaginal examination. In the course of the examination, Dr. X. touched her in some tender spot in such a way that she lost consciousness; he placed her on the bed and when she came partly to herself, she felt his organ within her parts; she tried to struggle away from him but was too weak; when he finished his task the doctor threw some water on her face to help her come to herself; when she regained consciousness in full she found the man's 'seed' on her shirt."

The woman herself testified as follows: "The doctor came to the house at about half past eleven. Upon his arrival he said: 'Getting along any better?' I answered: 'I am about the same; I am weak and the flow still continues, but I have no pain.' He said he will have to examine me and he made me stretch my drawers apart. He put his hand inside and asked me whether I felt any pain. I answered, no; then he touched me, I do not know just where, and suddenly I felt myself weak and falling into his arms; he put me on my bed and when I felt his organ inside of me and very deep I came to myself; I cried out 'my God!' and I pushed him away with my knees so that he had to draw back. When I saw that it was the doctor who did it I fainted again; just as I was losing consciousness I felt that he was trying to start all over again, and not being able to do so, he dropped his 'seed' on my shirt; I do not know whether he was on the bed or against it only. While I was faint he lifted me and placed me on a big chair and threw water on my face to help me regain consciousness."

Prof. Lorain was led by his investigation of the circumstances to report the following conclusions:

It is natural for a physician who is examining a woman to ask her to hold apart her drawers if they are in the way during the examination.

The physician's attitude towards the patient and the position he assumed during the examination corresponds to common usage.

Concerning what took place during the alleged fainting-spell Prof. Lorain declares: "I have never seen a woman fall into the arms of her examining physician. That may happen if she is very weak, or extremely anemic, which was not the case with this woman. Moreover, fainting may be a serious accident. The paleness, the uselessness of the limbs, the complete insensibility of the whole body constitute syncope, which is the image of death. During that state nothing is felt, heard, or seen. Syncope requires that the body should be placed in horizontal position with the head lowered; it lasts at least a few minutes, sometimes longer, and leaves the patient with a feeling of malaise for some time afterwards." Here he points out how the woman's deposition of what the physician did is contrary to what any physician would do under the circumstances. No physician would pick a fainting woman off the bed where she was lying down to place her in a chair and dash water on her face to revive her. He continues:

"A woman who has fainted does not feel a man on top of her; she cannot analyze her feelings, she is like dead... When the woman declares that while in that state she felt that the physician could not get through with his part, etc., she is mistaken, for what she states is impossible... syncope is all or nothing (except in the case of sudden hemorrhage), there is no state of half or part syncope. One cannot admit a fact contrary to natural history. It follows that the complainant was not in a faint..."

Prof. Lorain discusses next the possibility that the woman may have been in a state of catalepsy, such as is common with hysterical persons. But this hypothesis is also proven untenable. "Even admitting the impossible supposition that the woman was in a cataleptic state, this state of prolonged and complete loss of sensibility would have made it impossible for her to see, hear, feel or analyze her feelings, as she claims to have done."

Another possibility is now taken under consideration, "that indefinite, vague and inchoate state, that soft languor into which women fall when in a state of eroticism. This is a condition voluntarily brought about; a woman who will permit herself to fall into this state of voluntary abandon has no right to claim that she has been deprived of her liberty... The story of a special spot where the physician touched her and caused her to faint must be dismissed. It is nonsense. There is no particular organ the touching or titillation of which can cause fainting."

"The presence of spermatic fluid on the shirt of a married

woman cannot be looked upon as incriminating evidence against a defendant, and in spite of the woman's pretense that she had no sexual relations with her husband for over a month. Her weakness and illness were not of such character as to preclude the possibility of intercourse, in spite of her claim to the contrary. Moreover, the woman's unstable character, her tendency to simulation, is illustrated by another incident: one day she had a physician, a druggist and a priest called hurriedly to her house. She seemed in a deep faint, her eyes were closed, her body apparently lifeless. The druggist who reached the scene first felt for the pulse and found it strong and bounding. The priest asked why he was sent for and it was the woman who answered him; although she seemed dead a few minutes before, she now engaged in conversation. The woman had not fainted. She was not even having a hysterical attack. The truth is, she was playing at being in danger, simulating illness." The charge was dismissed.

Dr. L. Thoinot relates the following story, taken from Dr. Bourdin: A little abandoned girl was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. X., highly honorable people. One day Mr. X. read about the story of a scandal that was making a good deal of noise in a certain city in France. The little girl was present, but was playing with her doll, and, besides, appeared to pay no attention to what was being said in her presence.

The husband and wife commented on the story, supposing that the child was incapable of understanding the conversation which was held in veiled terms. Several days afterward Mr. X. surprised the little girl in the act of holding her doll and kissing it passionately on the upper part of its legs, which she held wide apart. Mrs. X. asked the child who could have taught her to do such a thing. In no way disconcerted, she replied that she was doing to her doll what had already been done to herself. She declared further, that when she was with her nurse, the nurse's little boy had lain with her and that they had acted like husband and wife. After the little boy his father had come, and then the grandfather, and they had taken the same liberties as the little boy.

A great uproar in the house. The little girl was submitted to an examination by an able physician, who declared that no assault had been committed on her. Questioned and driven to her last retreat, she admitted that there was no truth in her story, and that she had simply wished to do like the ladies whom they told about in the newspapers.

Blackmail, as we know, is a frequent motive of false accusation of rape.

A woman accused several individuals of having raped her child, aged nine and a half years. The expert showed that this accusation had no foundation. The genital organs of the child were healthy; but there was noticed on the superior portion of the vulva a red circle, of recent origin, as large as a silver half dollar. The woman herself had bruised her child to form a ground for her accusation, the motive being blackmail.—(From *Fodéré.*)

The following case of rape blackmail (taken from Casper) is of its kind the acme of the horrible. A woman after trying to get money from a wealthy man by accusing him of an assault on her child, gave the child up to her own lover, who, she knew, was infected with gonorrhea, so that the accusation in the future could have material basis of fact.

The following case came under the observation of Dr. Francis Ogston ("Lectures on Medical Jurisprudence"):

A girl of no stated occupation, or ordinary means of livelihood, of a wretched appearance, and ill dresed, giving her age as thirteen, though appearing younger, lodged a charge of rape against a man between fifty and sixty. She alleged that the man had drawn her aside into a wood in the country, and there had thrice forcible connection with her, betwixt two of which acts he had slept for a short time, after which they came to town together, when before parting he treated her to a cup of coffee.

On examining the girl, some blood was found at the vulva, which she herself stated was menstrual. The hymen was entire, the vulvar cavity had a considerable depth, the clitoris was larger than usual, and the nymphae projected for about an inch beyond the labia.

The girl admitted that she was no stranger to sexual intercourse, which she had commenced with a boy two years previously. Of course, in such a case no charge of rape would lie, and the old man was set at liberty.

Schoolmasters are not infrequently the victims of accusations by hysterical girls who have a secret attachment for them. The following case is reported by Taylor:

A schoolmaster was charged with having committed a rape on

a child of thirteen years of age. The child was unusually precocious for her age, and swore very distinctly to a rape having been committed. She made no complaint, however, for a week or ten days. On examination there was no mark of violence about her either recent or remote. The girl's story was inconsistent and not supported by evidence. On crossexamination she said the prisoner committed the rape while they were standing up. The girl was short, and the schoolmaster, who was sixty years of age, was tall. She was quite sure that she was never placed on the ground. She resisted all she could, but could not help herself. Her statement of the mode in which the act was perpetrated involved so many inconsistencies and improbabilities that the jury acquitted the prisoner. It should be borne in mind that to commit rape in the standing position is *an impossibility.*

Ogston had to examine a charge of rape against an officer in the Aberdeen barracks, who had borne a very high character in his regiment. The woman related a very circumstantial story, which was borne out to some extent as to place and circumstances. It was found out, however, on examining the woman, that she had an abundant gleety discharge, and a bubo in one of her groins, and had otherwise the character of a notorious prostitute. The man, who was detained in custody some weeks, showed no trace of infection from the alleged connection. The prosecution was finally dropped when the woman's character was found out.—

Another case was that of a lad, aged 17, capitally indicted for a rape on a girl, aged 21. The complainant proved to be a woman of coarse character, who, as appeared from the evidence, seduced the prisoner to the act of sexual intercourse on a public road. The lad was acquitted.—

Dr. Francis Ogston, in common with all other forensic authorities ("Lectures Med. Jurisprud.") warns that extreme caution is necessary in admitting statements to the effect of rape having been committed as they are often made by females in order to cover their shame.

A bailiff was charged with the capital offense of violating a young woman in a house where he had been formerly stationed as a keeper. The girl was the daughter of the owner of the house, and it came out that the alleged rape was committed early in the night in the very next room to that in which her father and mother slept. Upon being asked if she screamed, she answered, no. Why not? *For fear of waking mother.*—

Dr. Ogston had occasion to examine a young woman under circumstances not unlike the above. One night a gentleman had occasion to go to his bedroom at an earlier hour than usual, when, on opening the door to his apartment in the dark, he was startled by hearing stifled moans from the bed, and some one slipped past him and escaped. On groping his way forward, his hand came in contact with the genitals of a female servant, who lay across the bed with her clothes up. The girl, when she had taken time to come to herself, which she did slowly and deliberately, stated to her master that she had been in the room arranging his bed when the footman came upon her, forced her into it, and would have succeeded in violating her had he not been disturbed.

On examining this woman shortly afterwards, no room was left for doubt that the case was a sham one altogether, and that the charge of violence was one got up, on the spur of the moment to cover the shame of detection, the signs of distress having only commenced when she saw that her situation did not admit of concealment. The home was full of servants, and the only excuse for not raising an outcry which she could allege was that her Mistress, an invalid old lady, would have been alarmed.—

A. S. Taylor cites the following case, reported by Dr. Nelson Hardy:

A servant girl of good character rushed home one night, knocked excitedly at the door, and, when her mother opened it, fell fainting into her arms. On coming to herself, she told the following extraordinary story. She had been out walking with another girl, and had passed a man whom she could not describe. She and the other girl had separated at the end of the road, and she had then come back alone in the direction of where the man had been. When she reached a lonely part of the road she was thrown down by him on her back, hurting it against a stone. A white scarf had been placed over her mouth to prevent her screaming, and the man, holding down her arms, had forcible intercourse with her. In less than half an hour the police had searched the road, but no scarf had been found. She was brought to the station and Dr. Hardy found evidence on her dress and hat that she had been on the ground. He also found a red mark about the middle of her back, where she complained of pain, but, on examining for any evidence of the alleged rape, Dr. Hardy found absolutely none; no stains on the clothes, no marks of violence, not even a scratch on her limbs; no rupture of the hymen, and no sign of any irritation

about the genitals. Dr. Hardy came to the conclusion that she had probably enough been thrown down and that, in her fright, she had imagined the rest.—

Taylor relates that once he was consulted in a case in which a girl of seven or eight years described to him most circumstantially how her master had drawn her down on to him and inserted his organ completely into her vagina; notwithstanding these details her vagina showed not a trace of any damage, and the hymen was quite intact. An appeal to the common sense of the mother of the girl and the wife of the inculpated man led to an abandonment of the case.—

Dr. W. D. Sutherland (Indian M. Gaz., 1915) was consulted in a case in which an aged man was charged with having ravished a young girl. Due consent having been obtained, the doctor examined the girl, and found she had a slight trickle of blood from the vulva down her thigh. She volubly described what had happened. She detailed the proceedings even to the withdrawal of the penis and the emitted semen. The blood was found to come from a small linear wound inside the vagina. *The vulva was not injured in any part.* The doctor, becoming suspicious that the story she had told was false, asked her to repeat her tale, which she at once proceeded to do *verbatim.* Suddenly the writer interrupted her and then asked her to continue. This she did by beginning at the beginning again. The doctor's suspicions having been thus strengthened, he asked her whether she had observed the penis. She replied she had carefully observed it. He then asked whether she knew the difierence between a Hindu's and a Musselman's organ. She replied that she did, and showed that she understood the effects of circumcision. Then she was asked whether the penis of the old man was like that of a Hindu or Mussulman. She replied it was of the latter type. Asked whether it was in erection, she answered in the affirmative.

The writer then examined the old man—a European—and found that he had congenital phimosis; a large tumor of one testicle caused, he said, by an injury sustained some years before; and neither ilo-inguinal nor bulbar reflex could be elicited, showing that his powers of erection were feeble in the extreme.

Returning to the girl, the writer asked her who had scratched

her inside her vagina. She at once replied: "My mother, with her finger nail." Of course the man was exonerated.—

The following case reported by Thoinot of an innocent man falsely accused of rape by his own daughter is about as gruesomely interesting as we have in literature. Thoinot relates the following story to which he is indebted to the examining magistrate, Mr. Albanel.

In 1895 Mr. B. and his wife took into their household a friend who had just lost his wife, a Mr. H., aged sixty years, and his daughter, Lucie, aged eleven. Some time later Mr. B. and his wife lodged a complaint with the court, in which they accused Mr. H. of having raped his own daughter, and of having communicated to her syphilis.

The charge rested on statements and certificates of physicians. One of them had seen, or was said to have seen, a papule on the vulva of the child; then the other had discovered a sore throat; finally, the child had at the time of the accusation a lesion that was called "syphilitic pemphigus."

At the hearing Lucie H. unhesitatingly accused her father; he had taken her, she said, for the first time when she was nine years old, and since then had never ceased to have connection with her either with the penis, or with the finger, or even practicing cunnilingus. And the child did not merely accuse him orally, she wrote to a little girl friend and told her all the horrors of which she had been the victim; she wrote to the police commissioner, telling him that sooner than return to her abominable father, she would prefer to kill herself.

The examination by the expert revealed the fact that the child had not even been deflowered, did not have and never had had syphilis, and that she certainly could not have acquired it from her father, since he did not have it.

The case was dismissed.

It was not until several months later that the child—on the eve of her first communion—after having always maintained the guilt of her father, confessed that B. and his wife had fabricated the entire charge, and that she had been their accomplice on the promise that they would give her money that she might become an actress like the girl B., who supported her parents by the money that she received from her lovers.

The motive that had actuated B. and his wife to accuse H. falsely was the wish to appropriate to themselves a considerable sum of money that they owed H. B. and his wife were prosecuted and condemned.

The perversity of some little girls is incredible and this case which could have easily resulted in 20 years imprisonment for an innocent man—and the accuser's own father!—should teach us always to be on our guard.

As to accusations of rape committed while the woman was under the influence of narcotics, chloroform, ether, etc., we must also be very careful. Dr. Justin Herold in his Manual of Legal Medicine says: Women under the influence of nitrous oxide gas, chloroform, ether, and while intoxicated have been ravished; but it is well, in this connection, to recollect that females who are emotional while under the influence of these substances, especially if the period be that of their menses, may imagine that they are having sexual relations with their husbands, or even with the medical man who may be prosecuting his duties as a surgeon at the time. Physicians have been charged by such females with the commission of rape, and, although perfectly innocent of the crime, have suffered conviction and confinement in prison. Dubois mentions the case of a female undergoing an operation, who, while under the influence of the anesthetic, attempted to caress her attendant by drawing him close to her side. After the effects of the anesthetic had passed away she confessed to having dreamed of sexual congress with her husband while unconscious. Hence it is important to exercise extreme caution in accepting the testimony furnished by the prosecutrix, unless a medical examination corroborates her statement.

We will conclude this paper on rape by an excerpt from Prof. Robert Michels, which deserves very careful reading. A better understanding of the subject by our jurists would save many innocent men from prison and disgrace.

Every lawyer, says Prof. Michels, knows with what circumspection must usually be considered all accusations of rape, and what extreme care has to be exercised in such cases if we are to avoid the danger of committing a judicial murder. More than half of all accusations of rape break down on close enquiry, and are dismissed as false. The over-heated imagination during the puberal development in girls, hysteria and a base speculation upon masculine fears of public scandal—to be avoided by the payment

of blackmail—lead perverse children and young girls, far more often than the public is generally aware, to accuse men of sexual offences, exhibition, indecent assault or actual rape.

In many cases, when the legal inquiry is held, examination will show, either that the alleged rape cannot possibly have taken place, or else that the girl was a consenting party. In England, when there had been a number of sexual assaults on women in railway trains, and the daily papers had taken the matter up with considerable excitement, demanding the exemplary punishment of the offenders, and the introduction of special measures for the safety of female travellers, an English judge laconically remarked that in his opinion men travelling on the railways were in greater danger from women's attempts at blackmail than were women from men's attempts at rape.

On the other hand, lawyers with considerable practical experience in these cases have pointed out that accusations of rape are seldom brought by women except against persons with whom they are intimately acquainted. Even where it has been alleged that the offender was a stranger, it has as a rule been shown in the course of the investigation that he was really a friend, a fiancé, or some such person. In the great majority of cases, before the assault was committed, violator and violated were closely associated. Thus the woman's complaint commonly takes this form, that her acquaintance or intimate, as the case may be, who has hitherto always confined himself to the permissible degrees of social intercourse, has suddenly become an untamed savage, and, throwing off all moral restraints, has forcibly possessed her, or attempted to do so.

With rare exceptions, this is a fancy picture, and the true course of affairs has been altogether different. The friend has never played the part of Joseph, and the relations between the two young people prior to the offence were by no means on a purely platonic plane. From secret loving glances to the assignation and the intimate amorous caress, they have, to their mutual satisfaction, traversed the whole *via voluptatis*.. At length they have arrived at its culmination. The man's erotic sensualism has attained its extremest tension, and he has therefore "suddenly" demanded complete posession—in other words he has arrived at the natural conclusion of all that has gone before. But at this point the girl hesitates and is irresolute. Although, like girls in general, she fails to understand the strength and the sudden uprush of sexual

need in the male—this misunderstanding, dependent upon physiological differences between the sexes, is one of the chief causes of unhappiness in love alike in marriage and in extraconjugal relationship—and although, owing to the comparatively undeveloped state of her own sexual sensibilities, she has but a hazy idea of the complex phenomena of the sexual act, none the less in the course of the battle of love she has so far been inflamed that at the bottom of her heart she also yearns for the culmination of voluptuous ecstasy and for complete self-surrender. But adverse considerations pass through her mind with the speed of the lightning flash. The dread of the unknown potentialities of the sexual process itself, fear of her parents, of reproach, of the possible child, of dishonor, the thought that the loss of her virginity will involve the loss of her best chances of success in life — all these things make her tremble. She becomes irresolute. Despite all this in most cases the long cherished glow bursts forth into flame and the girl is a fully consenting party to what follows. Not infrequently, however, the cold douche of the countervailing arguments puts out the fire, and the girl indignantly refuses a demand which to her, now that her own mind is freed from the fumes of passion, appears, of a sudden, insolent, and even criminal. But this revolt often comes too late. The man is now, in part owing to to the woman's own actions, in a state of sexual hyperexcitability, which has entered the sphere of the pathological and deprives him of the power of free rational self-determination. To quote a coarse but expressive Italian proverb, "cazzo duro non ragiona." All the more is this true because the girl during the earlier erotic by-play has lost her moral predominance over her lover, and her sudden return to virtue is therefore regarded by him as merely an incomprehensible mood or as an underhand trick. Thus the amorous sport ends in an act of "rape," for which both parties are equally responsible, in the moral sense, but for which legally the man alone has to pay the hard and disgraceful penalty of imprisonment.

TAEDIUM VITAE ET AMORIS—BORED WITH LIFE AND LOVE.

Life is strife; incessant struggle is the keynote of existence. Man's inmost being, his very soul and nature, is will to be, to grow, to do, to conquer. Man, being a bundle of energy tendencies, finds thrill and joy in combat, competition. Hence the fascination

experienced by the statesman, the financier, the gambler, the hunter, the "chicken chaser." Pleasure accompanies the pursuit of the thing coveted; but possession breeds satiety, disgust.

There was a youth once, rich, handsome, healthy, highly educated, clever, honored and beloved by all who knew him. Yet he resolved to die. He wrote: "Life has given me a headache. My soul is tired. I want a good sleep in the churchyard." Then he blew out his brains. An uninterrupted course of good fortune was the only motive that could be assigned to his deed.

What is true of life is true of love, life's most intense emotion. "Non ut amare peto sed ut amare sinas." (I do not care for thy love, but merely want that thou sufferest my love). This word of the Roman poet Persius was suggested by the fact that many persons not only scorn the requital of their most ardent love, but actually are repelled by the surrender of the other party. Such persons are more interested in their own emotion than in the object of their love. As soon as the experience has served its purpose, the sensation grows less vivid, and there is no more motive for prolonging the condition.

An artist once confessed: "I cannot love a woman who loves me." This young man was dominated by the impulse of making conquests, of winning damsels coy, of captivating cold, disdainful hearts. As soon as he obtained what he desired, his joy of victory became changed into icy frigidity which made sex relations impossible.

The diminution, or exhaustion, of libido, caused by the absence of obstacles to be overcome, is a frequent cause of the sexual taedium encountered in monogamous relations. That which is obtained without difficulty loses charm and value. Hence polygamy, hence wives or husbands browsing in strange pastures, hence prostitution, which is but a modified form of plural marriage.

On the other hand, whenever the blush of love begins to fade, fresh blossoms of a rejuvenated passion oft begin to bud out of the feeling of a threatening loss.

Therefore, slight misunderstandings, trifling squabbles between husband and wife or lovers may cement the union, the same as bitter condiments render food more palatable.—G. PANEBAKER.

COMMENT BY THE EDITOR.

I am sorry to have to disagree most emphatically with the views expressed by our esteemed contributor in his excellent little article.

First, as to committing suicide out of sheer, uninterrupted good fortune. There never was such a thing and never will be such a thing. Nobody has ever committed suicide out of sheer happiness. Because a man has money and does not have to work for a living does not mean that he is happy. Boredom, lack of interest, is often one of the greatest tortures. One of the indispensable conditions of happiness is some deep interest, either in friends, in a wife and children, in a sweetheart, in social work, in science, in literature, art, invention, or even a hobby of some sort. And besides, how can one know whether another person is really happy or deeply unhappy? He may look happy, may have a cheerful smile on his face, according to our knowledge he may have nothing to worry about, and still the deepest grief may be gnawing at his vitals. In the case of the youth referred to in our contributor's article, how do we know, for instance, that the man was not completely impotent? And we know that in people who have no high interests in life and are thrown solely on material pleasures, complete impotence is apt to induce the deepest depression and melancholy. I repeat, nobody has ever committed suicide and nobody ever will commit suicide out of sheer happiness, because he has everything he wants and has no further desires. Of course a happy man may get softening of the brain and go suddenly insane, but that naturally does not touch our question.

Now, as to love. It is also one of the mossgrown superstitions that love cannot be enjoyed fully unless it has some severe obstacles in the way, unless it has been won after a severe struggle. All wrong. All bosh. There may be a few degenerates who feel that way, but it is certainly not the feeling of the vast majority of mankind. And a man who is struggling to win a woman and becomes frigid the moment his struggle has been crowned with success, is either an abnormal or impotent. Normal people do not feel that way. It is time that the vicious, sadistic superstitions about pain, suffering, obstacles and struggles being necessary and useful factors in attaining and enjoying happiness be given a rest. Where this *is* the case (and it is the case only in a small number of people), you may be sure that you have to deal with either a pervert or a cruel, vicious person. The whole subject of pain as a necessary or useful or ennobling influence needs complete revision. And I shall attempt to subject it to such revision in the very near future.

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EDITORIALS AND EDITORIAL NOTES

NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

The subscription price of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF UROLOGY AND SEXOLOGY is Five Dollars per annum. But our old subscribers may still subscribe at the old rate of $4.00 per annum, or $10.00 for 3 years. So will you do us the kindness and renew your subscription *now*, without waiting for a bill? It will save us so much trouble and expense. *Please do.*

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This JOURNAL is the only one of its kind in the English language. It fills a need that no other journal has ever attempted to fill. We have never made any special promises, preferring to let the JOURNAL speak for itself. But we have a series of articles for the coming year which, we know, will make the JOURNAL more unique, more interesting and more valuable than ever. If you are at all interested in the important and ever broadening subject of sexology—the physiology, psychology and pathology of sex—you cannot afford to be without this JOURNAL.

WHY SEXOLOGY?

Why sexology? Why discuss sex? Why write sex articles? Why make a study of sex? Is it really of any importance? Did not and do not people get along very well without reading anything about, without knowing anything about sex? These questions are frequently presented to us not only by the ignorant, who are so ignorant that they do not even know that they are ignorant; not only by the prudish and the evil minded, but by sincere and well-meaning men and women. The ignorant and perverse-minded deserve no answer, and no answer will be of any avail; they are both incapable of seeing the truth and unwilling to see it. But the sincere and well-meaning deserve an answer, and we shall give it to them gladly, to the best of our ability.

We consider an earnest study of sex of importance, because we know of no other factor except hunger so pregnant with weal or woe for the human race as is sex. We personally could point to thousands, and there are literally millions and millions of people who are living in the deepest misery, who are suffering the most excruciating anguish, whose lives have been permanently and irretrievably ruined on account of "'sex."

In short, next to the economic problem—the problem of securing three meals a day, a shirt to your back and roof over your head—the most important task for the happiness of the individual and of the race is the proper solution of the sex problem, and you can not solve a problem by shunning it, by ignoring it, or by lying about it. To solve a problem you must study it, and study it without bias, without fear, without preconceived notions and decisions, and without minding where the study will lead one to. This is the task of sexology.

WHY THE SEX PROBLEM IS SO DIFFICULT OF SOLUTION.

Some people love extremes. And some students of sexology go so far as to claim that the sex problem is *more* important than the economic problem. We cannot go so far; but we do admit that the sex problem is more complex, more difficult of solution than is the bread and butter problem, which is a comparatively simple problem. We can do no better, perhaps, than to reproduce some portions of our Introduction to "The Sexual Crisis," in which this very point was touched upon, and the reasons why we considered the sex problem more difficult of solution were presented in detail.

One of the reasons, we wrote, is that economic misery is open, sexual misery is hidden. People in the mass do not conceal their economic condition; they are not ashamed of their economic status; some are even ready to exaggerate their poverty, and many do not hesitate to apply for charitable relief. Sexual misery, however, is hidden in the deepest recesses of the heart. Like the Spartan youth with the fox at his breast, many a man has gone down to his grave with sex misery gnawing at his vitals, without flinching, and many women will let their health wither and their vitality shrivel, but will not betray their secret.

Another reason is that it is easier and simpler to relieve bread poverty than it is sex poverty. When a man is starving, we can

give him a dinner, a dollar, or a job. When a person is dying for the lack of love, we cannot offer him the requisite remedy. *There are free bread-lines and municipal lodging houses for those who need bread and shelter; no such palliatives have been provided for the sexually starved.*

A third reason is that the satisfaction of our other instincts—hunger, thirst and sleep—is a legitimate function and does not conflict with any religious code; the satisfaction of the sex instinct, except under certain prescribed conditions, which for millions of adult men and women are unattainable, is considered a vice or a crime, because it conflicts with religious dogma, with the statute law and with the man-made code of morality.

A fourth reason: when a man is poor he knows it. In other words, one who suffers from lack of material necessities knows exactly what his trouble is; one who suffers sexually *does not himself always know what the trouble is.*

A man or a woman suffering from lack of love, from lack of sexual satisfaction (the two are not synonymous), or from improper sexual satisfaction may be deeply unhappy and not suspect the cause of the unhappiness. It may require the prolonged efforts of an acute psychologist to determine the cause and to point it out to the sufferer.

Then again—number five—incomparably more people are devoting their lives to the work of solving economic problems than are engaged in studying our sex problems. And the people engaged in the former can be bolder in their statements and more untrammeled in their opinions than those engaged in the latter. In the worst case they—the former—may be stigmatized as socialists or anarchists. But these words no longer carry with them any opprobrium or social ostracism. They have become respectable—the former entirely so, the second almost. While those who dare to discuss honestly and frankly our sex problems are anathematized as immoral, corrupters of youth, debauchees, profligates, and what not, and these terms still carry with them a deep opprobrium and do involve social and professional ostracism.

But there is something even more effective, more deterrent than opprobrium and ostracism—and we will designate this as number six of our reasons why the sex problem is confronted with greater obstacles; there is the real danger of forbidding and destroying your writings and of putting you behind prison bars.

When they cannot refute your arguments, they can hit you with a club and put you in chains. Economic and political writers are beyond that stage; they enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of press in the full meaning of those terms; no books on economic or political subjects are refused the mails and imprisonment no longer menaces their authors.* But sex writings, if frank, free and honest, are still barred from the mails or destroyed and their authors and publishers are still fined or sent to prison.

For these reasons, as well as for several others which cannot be mentioned here, the sex problem is much further from solution than the economic problem is, and for this very reason it becomes the bounden duty of those who do appreciate the full significance of our sex life, its potentiality for unlimited weal and boundless woe, to treat the subject honestly, fearlessly, without regard to consequences. The writer of this introduction has long ago come to the conclusion that the sex problem is more important than the economic problem, more important than any other problem confronting the human race. Perhaps I should not use the word important. Generally speaking, the economic problem is the most important one, for it is the basic, fundamental problem; when a person is hungry, and has no clothes to wear, and no shelter to protect him from inclement weather, he is more wretched than one who suffers from love-starvation. Nevertheless the economic problem is the simpler one. In this country at least, the number of those in a condition of actual chronic starvation is a small one, perhaps an insignificantly small one. The number of those—men and women—who slowly agonize on account of love-starvation is enormous. It constitutes the larger proportion of humanity.

We have to face the fact that there are millions of people who have no economic problems—whose livelihood is secure, and who can even revel in luxuries—but who have very perplexing, very distressing sex problems, that fill their waking and sleeping hours with life-destroying misery. It often happens that just as soon as the economic problem is settled, the sex problem commences. And it is no abstract reasoning, but the face-to-face confessions which the writer has had to listen to for many years in the sacred privacy of his office, the tears and the agonies of his patients, that

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* This was written before our entry into the war; and is only true of peace times.

have disclosed to him the unfathomed depths of the sex problem, the widespread suffering for which it is responsible. And many suffer and suffer and, as said, are not aware of the cause of their suffering. It is this widespread suffering that has induced the writer to devote his life to a study of humanity's sex problems and to bring the results of his study to the people. For the ignorance of the people in sex matters is unbelievably colossal. And when I say people, I do not mean the "common" people, the masses only. I mean all the people—the so-called cultured and uncultured alike. And of no books and journals are the people so greatly in need now as of sex books of high character, dealing in an honest, fearless and scientific manner with all the phases of the sex question, considering it from every viewpoint; the physiological, the psychological, the pathological, the sociological and last but not least the ethical.

GETTING ALONG VERY WELL ON COMPLETE ABSTINENCE.

In the May issue of The *American Journal of Urology and Sexology*, in a comment on Dr. Stekel's article on *Sexual Abstinence and Health* (A. J. U. and S., pp. 206-207) we referred to the fact that a number of soldiers in the camps who lived a perfectly abstinent life, as far as sexual indulgence was concerned, did not seem to be any the worse for it. On the contrary, they all were physically greatly improved. Of course we did not claim that the improvement was a result of the abstinence; the real factor of the improvement was probably the open air and the exercise; but it went to show anyhow that the abstinence did not produce any ascertainable physical injury.

Several months have elapsed since the above referred to comment was written. We have had further communications on the subject. More people and for a longer period have now been subjected to abstinence—forced or voluntary—and we have yet to hear of any case of injury to health as a result of such abstinence. Of course camp life is not civil life, but the experience of our soldiers in camp goes to emphasize the fact that no function of the human body is so much a psychic function, a matter of the mind, as is sexual intercourse. People who had been used to have relations regularly, once a month or even once or twice a week, were suddenly deprived of the opportunity for any relations. And how did they bear this deprivation? Evidently, without the least trouble. They did not become melancholic, hypochondriac, and

neither satyriasic on the one hand nor impotent on the other. Of course their day was occupied from early dawn until they went to bed; and when they went to bed, they were asleep the moment they touched the pillow. And the camp was free from all temptation. And again of course, in civil life, with its leisure time and abundance of temptation, abstinence for a period of twelve months or more is not feasible, nor is it likely to pass off without any sequelae. But the point is this: The sex instinct is not like the instinct of hunger, or thirst, or sleep. Eat and sleep and drink we must under all circumstances; otherwise the very integrity of our life is threatened; but sexual intercourse depends upon a great variety of adventitious circumstances.

If you are kept busy, if you know that there is no opportunity for sex relations, and if you have therefore made up your mind to give the matter no further thought, and if you also bear in mind that abstinence for six months or a year won't hurt you, or if it does cause you any injury it will be only of a trivial and transient character, then you *will* get along on complete abstinence very well indeed.

WHY PURGATIVES DEPRESS THE LIBIDIO SEXUALIS.

In a communication to the Medical Record some two years ago I stated that Epsom salts or magnesium sulphate was the most efficient anaphrodisiac we possessed. It is superior to the bromides, potassium nitrate or any other alleged anaphrodisiac in the Pharmacopeia. Of course its action is not a specific one, but the rationale can be explained as follows:

It, like all other hydragogue purgatives, induces a general depression of the vital functions, an anemic condition of the brain and of the viscera. But there is something more to it. We believe, as we cannot help believing, that the libido is due to the elaboration and accumulation of a sex hormone, call it libidogen or any other name, and the Epsom salts by producing a strong watery or rather serous discharge actually removes some of the sex hormones from the system. The action of a purgative in producing anaphrodisia is thus a double one. It, first, depresses the general functions and curtails the elaboration of the hormones, and, second, it removes from the system a part of the hormones already elaborated and accumulated therein; these are actions which neither potassium bromide nor potassium nitrate nor any other bromide is capable of producing. And that's why hydragogue cathartics or purgatives remain our most efficient anaphrodisiacs.

THE BEST FORMULA FOR SEXUAL IMPOTENCE.

Our readers know that the editor does not believe in magic formulas to restore "lost manhood," or in royal short cuts to give back youthful vigor to one who is sexually bankrupt. The treatment of a case of sexual impotence requires a combination of all physical, psychic, medicinal—local and general—dietetic and hydrotherapeutic measures at our command. Nevertheless, some formulas have proved beneficial, and in the average case of impotence, a combination of phosphorus, strychnine, glycerophosphates or hypophosphites and the mixed glands seldom fails to do good. Hormone therapy is the coming therapy for impotence. We are not yet in a position to say just which gland is insufficient or perverted in sexual impotence, and therefore we obtain the best results from pluriglandular therapy, from the administration of several glands at once.

THE NEGATIVE PHASE OF LIBIDO SEXUALIS.

With the positive phase of sexual desire everybody is familiar. It is the normal condition of most adult men and women in a normal healthy condition. Then there is the indifferent phase. This is a phase of varying but usually rather short duration supervening after normal satisfactory coitus. The man or woman has no desire for detumescence, but neither is there a loathing for it, and under favorable circumstances this negative phase may be easily changed into the positive phase. But very little consideration has been bestowed upon the negative phase of sexual desire. During that phase there is not only a psychic shrinking from sex relations, but an actual physical shrinking; the entire body, but particularly the sexual domain, contracts, shrinks, closes up. Not only is sexual intercourse unpleasant, painful or even loathsome, the very thought of it is disagreeable and hateful.

The greatest sufferer during that phase is, of course, woman. When a man is in that phase, he simply abstains, and that is all there is to it. There is nobody to tell him, nay. Only once in a while will an exacting wife make a demand upon an unwilling husband, and it lies with him to yield or to refuse. With women it is different. Wife, mistress, or *fille de joie*, she is often forced with clenched teeth to submit to the sexual embrace, when every atom in her body revolts against it. She has to submit, because her livelihood depends upon her granting sexual satisfaction to her temporary or permanent mate.

Abstracts and Psycho-Sexual Gleanings

THE INEVITABLENESS OF HEREDITY.

There is nothing quite so certain as the inheritance of the fundamental qualities of our ancestry. Even some of the family traits are securely stamped upon the germplasm. From human stock nothing but human stock ever issues. The infant of the ape never grows up to be a man. An infant of pure Caucasian blood is never born to parents of pure Chinese blood. Genius does not always issue from genius, but, it is certain never to arise from an unmixed feebleminded strain. The leopard cannot change his spots nor the Ethiopian his skin. Our idealistic forefathers declared that "all men were created free and equal"; the modern biologist declares that "all men are created bound and unequal." What heredity gives, upon that must environment and training build the superstructure.—CHARLES W. WADDLE: "*An Introduction to Child Psychology.*"

INSANITY AND HEREDITY.

. . . . When an individual is affected by a so called "inherited" disease, it is not the inheritance of this disease with which we have to deal, but rather a tendency or a predisposition to it. In other words, it is not the special pathologic characters themselves that are transmitted, but a predisposition, the result of peculiar anatomic or physiologic traits which favor the development of certain diseases. This morbid influence, acting in the germ-plasm and germ-cell, tends to break the continuity of normal inheritance and to create new characteristics, which, being abnormal, are less in harmony with the environment, and consequently hamper the individual in life's struggle. . . . Morbid heredity is not a positive quality, but a negative one. There are, it is true, potent causes which may invalidate a previously normal brain, and predispose it to mental breakdown, such as alcoholic indulgence, traumatism, and some physical diseases; but, as a prominent writer says, "It may be generally stated that in order to become insane a person must inherit a vice of organization." We should look, also for the inheritable antecedents of insanity, not alone in insanity itself as revealed in progenitors, but in all diseases that display evidence of undue instability or disorder of the higher nervous mechanisms. —ROBERT HOWLAND CHASE: "*The Ungeared Mind.*"

THE AGES OF LIFE.

By Arthur Schopenhauer.

A man's individual career is not, as Astrology wishes to make out, to be predicted from observation of the planets; but the course of human life in general, as far as the various periods of it are concerned, may be likened to the succession of the planets; so that we may be said to pass under the influence of each one of them in turn.

At ten *Mercury* is in the ascendant; and at that age, a man, like this planet, is characterized by extreme mobility within a narrow sphere, where trifles have a great effect upon him; but under the guidance of so crafty and eloquent a god, he easily makes great progress.

Venus begins her sway during his twentieth year, and then a man is wholly given up to the love of women.

At thirty *Mars* comes to the front, and he is now all energy and strength—daring, pugnacious and arrogant.

When a man reaches the age of forty, he is under the rule of the four *Asteroids;* that is to say, his life has gained in extension. He is frugal; in other words, by the help of *Ceres*, he favors what is useful; he has his own hearth, by the influence of *Vesta; Pallas* has taught him that which is necessary for him to know; and his wife—his *Juno*—rules as the mistress of his house.

But at the age of fifty, *Jupiter* is the dominant influence. At that period a man has outlived most of his contemporaries, and he can feel himself superior to the generation about him. He is still in the full enjoyment of his strength, and rich in experience and knowledge; and if he has any power and position of his own, he is endowed with authority over all who stand in his immediate surroundings. He is no more inclined to receive orders from others; he wants to take command himself. The work most suitable to him is now to guide and rule within his own sphere. This is the point where Jupiter culminates, and where the man of fifty years is at his best.

Then comes *Saturn*, at about the age of sixty, a weight as *lead*, dull and slow:—

> But old folks, many feign as they were dead;
> Unwieldy, slow, heavy and pale as lead.
>
> (*Romeo and Juliet.*)

Last of all, *Uranus;* or, as the saying is, a man goes to heaven.

I cannot find a place for *Neptune*, as this planet has been very thoughtlessly named; because I may not call it as it should be called—*Eros*. Otherwise I should point out how Beginning and End meet together, and how closely and intimately Eros is connected with Death; how Orcus, or Amenthes, as the Egyptians called him (Plutarch: *De Iside et Osiride*, c. 29), is not only the receiver but the giver of all things—λαμβάνων καὶ δίδους. Death is the great reservoir of Life. Everything comes from Orcus; —everything that is alive now was once there. Could we but understand the great trick by which that is done, all would be clear!

SUCCESSFUL TESTICLE IMPLANTATION.

On Dec. 20, 1917, before the Chicago Urological Society, Dr. G. Frank Lydston exhibited the following case (*Urol. and Cut. Rev.*, July 1918): The subject, a man 30 years old, had been perfectly healthy until the age of 17, when he sustained an injury to both testicles at a game of football. Both testicles were inflamed and swollen after the injury. Within three weeks the left testicle completely atrophied. At the time he first consulted the writer, the patient's secondary sex characteristics were in many respects distinctly feminine. At the age of 28 the remaining testicle underwent complete atrophy.

Erotomania has been defined as a species of mental alienation with distinctly feminine contour and a moderately characteristic feminine pelvis. The beard was scanty, hair on pubes moderately developed. He had been married for several years prior to the loss of the remaining testicles and had been virile. After the loss of the remaining testicle, a month before seen by the writer, he became completely impotent and his physical and mental efficiency were affected to such an extent that with difficulty he transacted his business, which was that of a traveling salesman.

On August 1st, 1915, the writer implanted upon the patient in the scrotal sac on either side testes taken from a 14 year old boy dead by accident. The operation was performed 38 hours after the death of the boy, the implanted organs being meanwhile refrigerated. The testes of the patient were scarcely larger than a grain of wheat, upon either side. The vasa deferentia were small. Healing was prompt. He returned home on the fourteenth day. Three weeks after operation his virility was restored and he began frequent copulation. Sexually he has since been perfectly normal. Immediately following the operation he complained of

great nervous excitability, attributed by the writer to a relatively large dose of sex hormone, overstimulating brain and spinal cord, but subsiding at the end of about six weeks.—The subject presented was in splendid health, with mental and physical efficiency fully restored, and implanted testes still in situ and in good condition.

EROTOMANIA.

Erotomania has been defined as a species of mental alienation caused by love. Esquirol has called attention to the essential difference of erotomania from nymphomania and satyriasis. The nymphomaniac and the satyriasist are victims of a physical disorder; the erotomaniac is a plaything of his imagination.

The erotomaniac may be in love with a living being or with an inanimate object, as, e. g., with a statue. An individual has been cited who was in love wth a star—he knew no carnal desires. Such persons are "psychics who hover in the ideal realms of mystic loves."—(Ad. Garnier: "*Traité des facultés de l'ame.*)

Erotomania is most generally but not exclusively seen in persons between the ages of eighteen to thirty, but very often old people have it. Dr. Robert C. Kenner (*The Alienist and Neurologist.* Jan. 1918) has observed three cases of this affection occurring in patients past their seventieth year.

The prognosis is often unfavorable, but under hydrotherapy and proper environment most cases will yield. Some years since, Dr. Kenner was called to treat a young woman, aged 20, who was so violently in love that her mind had become affected. She failed to respond to treatment and succumbed after an illness of nearly a month. In other cases, Dr. Kenner has obtained good results by hydrotherapy. The patient is given a bath in moderately warm water, every twelve, six, or four hours, according to the degree of cerebral hyperemia present in the case. Constipation is most unfriendly to the favorable progress of the disease. Cascara is valuable here and should be given sufficiently often to keep the bowels loose. At first it may be advisable to give the bromide of potassium—thirty grains every four or six hours—to quiet restlessness. Later, when the baths are regularly employed, no sedatives are called for.

It is highly important in the management of cases of erotomania to keep the patient from his old associates and even sever communication with them.—

I am sorry I cannot share Dr. Kenner's optimism as to the beneficial effects of warm baths, cascara and potassium bromide

in erotomania. Genuine erotomania, a real "grande passion", a genuine infatuation, is not influenced by such childish remedies. A purely physical passion, perhaps even nymphomania and satyriasis, may be somewhat influenced by strong purgatives and sedatives. But not erotomania. Potassium bromide and cascara sagrada are no remedies for the disease called "falling in love."—*Editor.*

THE PROBABLE OUTCOME OF WOMAN'S EMANCIPATION.

Bertrand Russell thinks that the effects of women's freedom upon private life and upon the life of the nation will be profoundly different from the effect expected by the pioneers of the women's movement. Women are acquiring freedom—not merely outward and formal freedom, but inward freedom, enabling them to think and feel genuinely, not according to received opinions. Very large numbers of women, when they are sufficiently free to think for themselves, do not desire to have children, or at most desire one child. There are intelligent and active-minded women who resent the slavery to the body which is involved in having children. There are ambitious women who desire a career which leaves no time for children. There are women who love pleasure and the admiration of men; such women will at least postpone childbearing until their youth is past. All these classes of women are rapidly becoming more numerous.

Owing to the combination of the increasing freedom of women with economic prudence, there is at present a selective birth rate of a very singular kind, namely, some sections are dwindling while others are increasing. The sections which are dwindling, which include the whole middle class and the skilled artisans, will practically become extinct. The sections that are increasing are the very poor, the shiftless, the superstitious and the feebleminded.

For these reasons, gradually a race will grow up which will be impervious to all the assaults of reason and will believe imperturbably that limitation of families leads to hell fire.

Women who have mental interests, who desire a career or who value their liberty, will gradually grow rarer and be more and more replaced by a placid maternal type which has no interests outside the home and no dislike of the burdens of motherhood. The result which ages of masculine domination have vainly striven to achieve, is likely to be the final outcome of women's emancipation and of their attempt to enter upon a wider sphere than that to which the jealousy of men confined them in the past.

BOOKS AND WOMEN.

"I then perceived, and experience has fully demonstrated, that love is only a more or less lively curiosity formed to that impulse which Nature has instilled into us to secure the perpetuation of the species. In fact, a woman like a book good or bad first attracts attention by the frontispiece. If that is not attractive it does not inspire a desire to read further, a desire which is directly proportional to the interest which the title page induces. Like a book, the frontispiece of a woman extends from top to bottom and the foot offers as great an attraction to men of my taste as does the head. While most beginners pay but little attention to a woman's feet, most readers pay but little to the edition of the book. In all cases women are wise to take great pains with the care of the face, dress, and bearing; since that is the only way they can inspire a desire to read further in those whom Nature has not granted the privilege of being born blind. And just as the man who has read many books ends by desiring any book good or bad if only it be new; so the man who has known many beautiful women finishes by becoming curious about the homely ones because they are new, that is, different. His eyes see the rouge which conceals the reality but his passion turning to vice finds favorable argument for this false frontispiece. It may well be, he argues, that the book is better than the binding and the reality better than the rouge which hides it. He is tempted to run thru the book but the pages not having been cut he meets with resistance. For the living book insists on being read in orderly sequence and the reader becomes the victim of coquetry—that monster which persecutes all whose *métier* is to love.

And you, spirited reader, if you have read these lines, permit me to add that if they have not contributed to your disillusionment, you are lost. That is to say, you will be the victim of the fair sex to your last gasp. If my frankness has not displeased you, pray accept my compliments."—*Memoires of Casanova.*

ATTRACTION BETWEEN INVERTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX.

She was 22 years old and, having always tended to be wild, at the age of 19 ran away from home and entered a house of prostitution of the higher grade. From her earliest years she felt little attraction for men, but this became crystallized in more definite forms as her sexual experience broadened in the hetero-

sexual relations in pursuit of her calling. She took no pleasure in normal coitus but used, in a purely artificial way, all the devices of seduction. When first observed she was in the constant company of two men, themselves pronounced inverts. Her homosexual tendencies were not at the time known, but were suspected from her obvious attraction to these men—men who themselves only cared for those of their own sex who were repulsive to most women. She confessed to being an invert, but was fearful that this fact if known would decrease her value to the house. The situation was a very unusual one, i, e., attraction between inverts of opposite sexes. She played the masculine rôle, while the two males took the feminine parts. These two males were chorus men in a musical show. She would call for them after the theater and take them to quarters which she had available. In addition, she paid all incidental expenses, such as for drinks and cigarettes. In every way the relationship was active on her part rather than on the part of her consorts. Tho she was involved from time to time in heterosexual relations, these were for business reasons only and were to her in no sense a voluntary sexual function.

One of her consorts was 26 years old. He came of family of very good standing in the community. Upon reaching the age of twenty his homosexual tendencies became so imperative that he indulged them freely. His practices with some younger men becoming known, he was forced to leave his home town and came to a larger city, being completely cut off and ostracized by his family. He had an extremely high soprano voice and readily drifted onto the stage in musical comedy. The morals of the company were lax and as most of the members were familiar with one or more types of sexual aberration, he was not regarded with quite the same stigma as in other circles. He had relations from time to time with various masculine men, but he had several liaisons with inverted women, with whom of course he never practised normal coitus. He had comparatively high intellectual attainments and was very busy in arraigning society in its attitude towards those of his type, and was prepared to ethically justify his characteristics and practices. He had almost every feminine trait in coquetry and carriage. His waist was small, his figure slight, his growth of beard practically nil and his genital organs stunted. He was known by the name of Rose.

The other man was feminine in slightly less degree and came of a less refined ancestry. He too was nicknamed with a feminine cognomen.—Dr. Douglas C. McMurtrie: *The Lancet-Clinic.*

THE MATRIMONIAL BED.

The prevalent custom of married people occupying the same bed is the cause of more instances of lack of harmony in sexual matters, and incidentally of more cases of sexual excess, than anything that could be mentioned. It certainly tends in many instances to lessen the mutual respect of married couples, and to pall the attractiveness of the matrimonial state. If married persons occupied separate apartments the novelty of matrimony would not be likely to wear away, and our divorce courts would be shorn of a large proportion of their cases.

So says Dr. G. Frank Lydston and we fully agree with him. We have been maintaining this position for many years, in spite of Forel's opinion to the contrary.

VALETUDINARIANS.

Strange as it may seem, a feeble constitution is commonly more flexible than a vigorous one. By yielding more readily, it is not so soon broken. A disease is for the most part strenuous in proportion to the stamina of the person whom it attacks. Strong men have energetic diseases. The puny valetudinarian seems to be affected less by illness. His semi-vital existence is often protracted beyond the active life of the more vivacious and robust.

—Dr. Robert Howland Chase: "*The Ungeared Mind.*"

DELIVERY IN THE OPEN.

Among savages delivery in the open was, as it is still among some tribes, the custom. Longfellow immortalizes the birth of Minnehaha in "Hiawatha":

There among the ferns and mosses,
There among the prairie lilies,
On the Muskoday, the meadow,
In the moonlight and the starlight,
Fair Nokomis bore a daughter.

THE AGES OF MAN AND WIFE.

To the Editor of the Am. Jour. of Sexology:—Ellen Key and other sex reformers have suggested that no marriage license be issued in cases where the difference in the ages of the marital

partners is greater than 25 years. It probably would be a good law. But if it became a law, many happy or at least satisfactory marriages would remain unconsummated.

I am personally acquainted with two couples, where the difference in the ages is much greater. In the first case the husband is 64 years old and the wife 29—a difference of 35 years. They have been married 5 years, and have two fine children. I delivered both. The man is well preserved, and as far as a family physician can know, they live as happily as most couples.

The second case is still stranger. There the tables are turned: the woman is sixty, and the man is only twenty-eight. They have been married three years, and they seem to be very happy. The wife had been a widow for about 15 years, before she married the young man whom she saw grow up, practically in her house. The husband is very devoted to his wife, and seems to be deeply in love with her. She is a healthy, clean, well-preserved, cheerful person; she does not look her age, but she does not conceal it.—

F. R. B., M. D.

WORRY AND SEX DESIRE.

Editor A. J. U. and S.:—With deep personal interest have I read your editorial in the November JOURNAL OF SEXOLOGY on Worry and Impotence. I am fifty-five years old, and while not as strong as twenty-five years ago, I have had nothing to complain of *in rebus sexualibus*. Coitus was generally indulged in 3 or 4 times a month, with satisfaction to both parties. Eight months ago our two boys—our only two boys—were sent over there. Since that time only two or three attempts were made—each time *very* unsatisfactory. The desire was weak, the erection imperfect, and the ejaculation almost instantaneous. I wonder how many fathers in similar conditions have been affected in a similar manner.

F. C., Ph.D.

PREGNANCY AFTER 50.

To the Editor: A woman applied to me to-day for birth-control information. *She is* 51 *years old*, and claims that unless she and her husband are very careful, she is sure to conceive. The usual prevenceptive measures often fail in her case, and as she is tired of paying money for abortions, she would like some sure prevenceptive.

W. R., M.D.